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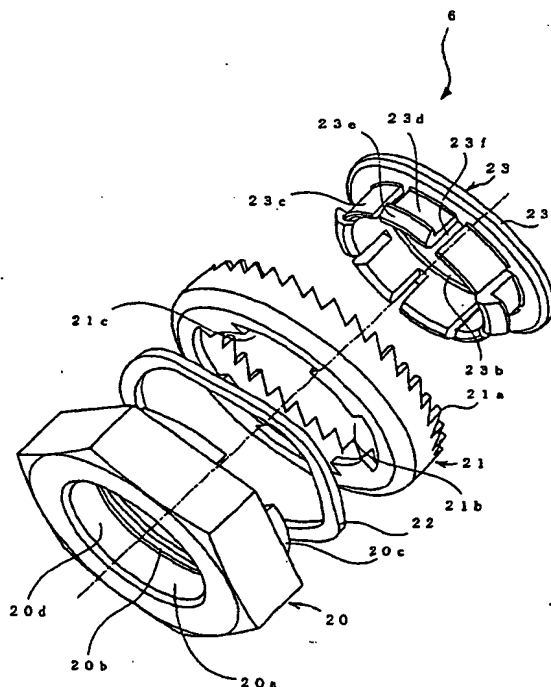
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(54) ANTENNA MOUNTING NUT

(57) With the object of obtaining a reliable grounding of the antenna, even if the panel of the vehicle is deformed or the elasticity of the base pad or O-ring weakens, a washer portion 21 is integrally secured to a nut portion 20 via a wave washer 22. This securing is performed by mounting a joint portion 23 in washer portion 21, and by mating protuberances 23e of second protruding pieces 23d of joint portion 23 with a ring-shaped groove portion 20b that is formed inside a first through-hole 20a of nut portion 20. Even if the vehicle panel the antenna is mounted, and so forth, is deformed, or the stress on the antenna-mounting nut 6 weakens, this change is absorbed by wave washer 22, and thus a marked reduction in the press-contacting force of the antenna-mounting nut 6 does not occur, and the grounding of same is made reliable.

Fig. 1



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Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to an antenna-mounting nut for securing an antenna body, which comprises an antenna element, to a vehicle.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Motor vehicle antennas, which are secured to a panel of a vehicle, are conventionally known. An example of a constitution of a motor vehicle antenna of this kind is shown in Fig. 6. This motor vehicle antenna, with the part that is mounted on the vehicle panel enlarged, is also shown in Fig. 7.

[0003] As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, an antenna body 100 of an automobile antenna comprises an antenna cover 101 and an element portion 102 that is mounted on antenna cover 101, and a base 103 is secured to the lower end of antenna cover 101. A cylindrical protrusion 103a is formed on the lower face of this base 103 so as to protrude therefrom, as shown in Fig. 7, and antenna body 100 is secured by a mounting nut 106 threadedly engaging on this cylindrical protrusion 103a, such that a vehicle panel 110 is interposed therebetween. Here, the base portion of cylindrical protrusion 103a is formed as a rectangular protrusion, and a rectangular antenna-mounting hole is formed in vehicle panel 110 that enables this rectangular protrusion to be inserted there-through.

[0004] Furthermore, an antenna top portion 102a of a diameter that is enlarged with respect to element portion 102 is provided at the upper end of element portion 102. The lower portion of element portion 102 is a molded portion 102b that is molded from a synthetic resin that is soft, such as a rubber. It is preferable for this molded portion 102b to be provided with an internal wave trap coil that is connected to the element.

[0005] Further, when the antenna is subjected to an external force, the soft molded portion 102b of the lower portion of element portion 102 prevents damage to element portion 102 by bending and absorbing the external force applied.

[0006] The electrical length from antenna top portion 102a of element portion 102 constituted in this way to the base end portion of antenna body 100 is, for example, approximately one quarter of an FM radio band wavelength, and the electrical length from the base end portion to the lower end of the wave trap coil is approximately one quarter of a mobile wireless telephone band wavelength. As a result, in addition to being resonant in a mobile wireless telephone band and the FM radio band, this motor vehicle antenna is capable of receiving radio waves in the AM radio band via the whole area of the antenna body 100.

[0007] Signals of this kind, which are transmitted and received by an element portion 102 are guided out by

cables 107a, 107b that pass through cylindrical protrusion 103a. Cable 107a is a cable for a mobile wireless telephone and cable 107b is a cable for FM/AM radio.

[0008] When securing an antenna body 100 of this kind to a vehicle panel 110, the rectangular protrusion formed on base 103 is inserted into the rectangular antenna-mounting hole formed in vehicle panel 110, and mounting nut 106 is made to mate threadedly with cylindrical protrusion 103a that protrudes from this antenna-mounting hole, and mounting nut 106 is tightened. Antenna body 100 is thus secured such that vehicle panel 110 is interposed therebetween, as shown in Fig. 6.

[0009] Further, a base pad 104, which is constituted from a resin that is elastic, is mated with base 103, and an O-ring 105 is inserted so as to mate with cylindrical protrusion 103a. Cylindrical protrusion 103a is then inserted into the antenna-mounting hole. Through the action of this base pad 104 and O-ring 105, rainwater and so forth is prevented from penetrating vehicle panel 110.

[0010] Furthermore, mounting nut 106 is constituted from a washer portion of U-shaped cross-section 121 formed with triangular protuberances at the upper end thereof, and from a nut portion 120 that engages threadedly with cylindrical protrusion 103a. Further, when mounting nut 106 is fastened onto cylindrical protrusion 103a, triangular protuberances engage inside the rear face of vehicle panel 110 and base 103 is thus reliably grounded to vehicle panel 110.

[0011] Further, so that there is no damage to element portion 102, when collision is made with a rotating brush of a car wash, or the like, when washing the car in a car wash, or when contact is made with the ceiling of a garage or the like when the car is being parked therein, element portion 102 can be made to be removable from antenna cover 101.

[0012] The constitution of the above-mentioned mounting nut 106 that secures antenna body 100 to vehicle panel 110 is shown in detail in Fig. 8.

[0013] As shown in Fig. 8, a plurality of triangular protuberances 121a are formed at the upper end of washer portion of U-shaped cross-section 121, and washer portion 121 is caulked to nut portion 120 so as to be integral with nut portion 120. That is, a screw thread is formed in nut portion 120 that engages threadedly with cylindrical protrusion 103a of base 103, and a plurality of caulking pieces 120a are formed on the upper face of nut portion 120. Further, by placing washer portion 121 on the upper face of nut portion 120 and caulking caulking pieces 120a by means of a caulking tool, nut portion 120 and washer portion 121 are made integral. Here, since six caulking pieces 120a are provided and disposed in a hexagonal shape, washer portion 121 is capable of rotating with nut portion 120. For this reason, when nut portion 120 is fastened onto cylindrical protrusion 103a, triangular protuberances 121a of washer portion 121 rotate, causing stripping of the paint of vehicle panel 110, thus permitting a reliable grounding of base 103.

[0014] Problems are posed by the conventional motor

vehicle antenna as described above, namely, that, when the vehicle panel where the antenna is mounted is deformed, the gap between mounting nut 106 and vehicle panel 110 changes fractionally, and there is a risk of the press-contacting force of mounting nut 106 weakening. When the press-contacting force of mounting nut 106 weakens in this way, the electrical connection between washer portion 121 and vehicle panel 110 becomes unstable, the grounding becomes unreliable, and a grating sound results.

[0015] Additionally, since stress is continually applied to base pad 104 and O-ring 105 by the fastening strength of mounting nut 106, there is a risk that, over the years, the elasticity of base pad 104 and O-ring 105 will weaken under this stress. Similarly here, there is the problem that the press-contacting force of mounting nut 106 weakens, the grounding becomes unreliable, and a grating sound results.

[0016] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an antenna-mounting nut that is capable of providing the antenna with a reliable grounding, even if the vehicle panel is deformed or the elasticity of the base pad or O-ring should weaken.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0017] In order to resolve the above-mentioned object, a first antenna-mounting nut of the present invention engages threadedly from the reverse side of the above-mentioned vehicle panel with the protrusion, on the antenna body, that is inserted into the mounting hole formed in the vehicle panel and comprises a washer portion, at whose upper end a plurality of serrate protuberances is formed that come into contact with the above-mentioned vehicle panel; a nut portion that engages threadedly with the above-mentioned protrusion; and a joint portion that integrally secures, via a wave washer, the above-mentioned washer portion and above-mentioned nut portion so that same do not rotate with respect to one another, and is characterized in that inclined faces of the above-mentioned serrate protuberances are formed facing in the direction in which the above-mentioned nut portion is fastened onto the above-mentioned protrusion.

[0018] Further, a second antenna-mounting nut of the present invention that is capable of resolving the above-mentioned object, engages threadedly from the reverse side of the above-mentioned vehicle panel with the protrusion, on the antenna body, that is inserted into the mounting hole formed in the vehicle panel, and comprises a washer portion, at whose upper end a plurality of serrate protuberances is formed that come into contact with the above-mentioned vehicle panel and whose inclined faces are formed facing in the direction in which the above-mentioned nut portion is fastened onto the above-mentioned protrusion; and a nut portion that is secured to this washer portion so as to be prevented from turning, and that engages threadedly with the

above-mentioned protrusion, and is characterized in that the above-mentioned washer portion is made elastic by being formed from an elastic material and by a plurality of slits being formed radially therein.

[0019] According to a first present invention of this kind, a wave washer is interposed between the washer portion and nut portion, meaning that even if the vehicle panel is deformed or the elasticity of the base pad or O-ring weakens, this change can be absorbed by the wave washer, and thus a reduction in the press-contacting force of the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented as far as possible. Further, the inclined faces of the serrate protuberances that are formed at the upper end of the washer portion are formed facing in the direction in which the nut portion is fastened onto the protrusion of the base; thus, during fastening, the antenna-mounting nut rotates smoothly, and, during loosening, since the serrate protuberances engage inside the vehicle panel, the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented from becoming loose.

[0020] Further, according to a second present invention, since the washer portion is made elastic by being formed from an elastic material and by a plurality of slits being formed radially therein, even if the vehicle panel is deformed or the elasticity of the base pad or O-ring weakens, this change can be absorbed by the elastic washer portion, and thus a reduction in the press-contacting force of the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented as far as possible. Further, because the inclined faces of the serrate protuberances formed at the upper end of the washer portion are formed facing in the direction in which the nut portion is fastened onto the base protrusion, during fastening, the antenna-mounting nut rotates smoothly, and, during loosening, since the serrate protuberances engage inside the vehicle panel, the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented from becoming loose.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0021] Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view showing a constitution of a first antenna-mounting nut according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0022] Fig. 2 is a figure showing the first antenna-mounting nut, according to an embodiment of the present invention, in a state of being assembled.

[0023] Fig. 3 is a figure showing a front view, a top view and a partial enlargement of the first antenna-mounting nut according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0024] Fig. 4 is a figure showing a motor vehicle antenna mounted on a panel of a vehicle by means of the first antenna-mounting nut according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0025] Fig. 5 is a figure showing a front view, a top view and a partial enlargement of a second antenna-mounting nut according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0026] Fig. 6 is a figure showing one example of a constitution of a conventional motor vehicle antenna.

[0027] Fig. 7 is a figure showing a conventional motor vehicle antenna with the part that is mounted on the vehicle panel enlarged.

[0028] Fig. 8 is a figure showing the constitution of a conventional mounting nut.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0029] The antenna-mounting nut according to the present invention attaches a motor vehicle antenna such that a panel of the vehicle is interposed therebetween, as shown in Fig. 6. Since constitutions excluding that of an antenna-mounting nut of a motor vehicle antenna are assumed to be similar, a description of each of such constitutions is omitted here in favor of the description of an antenna-mounting nut hereinbelow.

[0030] An example of the constitution of a first embodiment of the antenna-mounting nut of the present invention is shown in Figs. 1 to 3.

[0031] Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view showing the constitution of a first antenna-mounting nut according to an embodiment of the present invention; Fig. 2 is a figure showing the first antenna-mounting nut, according to the present invention, in a state of being assembled; Fig. 3(a) is a front view of the first antenna-mounting nut of the present invention, Fig. 3(b) is a top view thereof, and Fig. 3(c) is a figure showing a partial enlargement thereof.

[0032] As shown in these figures, the first antenna-mounting nut 6 of the present invention is constituted from a nut portion 20 that engages threadedly with a cylindrical protrusion 103a that protrudes from base 103; a washer portion 21 of U-shaped cross-section, on whose upper end edge a plurality of serrate protuberances 21a is formed; a wave washer 22, which has been deformed to assume a wave shape, that is interposed between nut portion 20 and washer portion 21; and a joint portion 23 that secures nut portion 20 and washer portion 21 such that wave washer 22 is interposed therebetween. A threaded portion 20d is formed, inside a first through-hole 20a in nut portion 20, that engages threadedly with a cylindrical protrusion 103a that protrudes from base 103, and a plurality of detent protuberances 20c is formed on the upper face of the nut portion so as to surround threaded portion 20d. Further, a ring-shaped groove portion 20b is formed at the top of first through-hole 20a.

[0033] Furthermore, washer portion 21 is formed so as to be of U-shaped cross-section, the upper end edge thereof having a plurality of serrate protuberances 21a formed thereon that engage inside vehicle panel 110, when the washer portion is mounted, a second through-hole 21b being formed in the center thereof. The inclined faces of serrate protuberances 21a are formed facing in the direction in which antenna-mounting nut 6 is fastened, and when antenna-mounting nut 6 is being fas-

tened, serrate protuberances 21a slide over the surface of vehicle panel 110; conversely, when antenna-mounting nut 6 is being loosened, since serrate protuberances 21a engage inside the surface of vehicle panel 110, antenna-mounting nut 6 can be prevented from becoming loose by serrate protuberances 21a. A plurality of protuberance-mating portions 21c are formed so as to face inside second through-hole 21b of washer portion 21. Each of a plurality of detent protuberances 20c formed on nut portion 20 is caused to mate with these protuberance-mating portions 21c.

[0034] Furthermore, joint portion 23 comprises a ring-shaped collar portion 23a at the center thereof, in which a third through-hole 23b is formed; and a plurality of first protruding pieces 23c and second protruding pieces 23d that are formed on this collar portion 23a so as to protrude downwards from the circumference of the third through-hole 23b. Grooves 23f that extend as far as third through-hole 23b are formed between this plurality of first protruding pieces 23c and second protruding pieces 23d. Mating protuberances 23e that are tapered and that protrude outwards are also formed at the lower ends of each of second protruding pieces 23d.

[0035] Mating protuberances may also be provided at the lower ends of first protruding pieces 23c.

[0036] Hereinbelow, by referring to Fig. 2, a state of assembly will be described in which nut portion 20 and washer portion 21 are secured, by joint portion 23, such that wave washer 22 is interposed therebetween. During this assembly, first of all, wave washer 22 is placed on nut portion 20, whereon washer portion 21 is then placed. In this state, as shown in the figure, joint portion 23 is mounted inside washer portion 21. Thereupon, collar portion 23a of joint portion 23 is housed in washer portion 21, and the plurality of first protruding pieces 23c and second protruding pieces 23d of joint portion 23 are passed through second through-hole 21b of washer portion 21 and protrude downwards. Further, by passing this plurality of first protruding pieces 23c and second protruding pieces 23d through wave washer 22, same are inserted into first through-hole 20a of nut portion 20. Thus, mating protuberances 23e of second protruding pieces 23d mate with ring-shaped groove portion 20b that is formed in first through-hole 20a of nut portion 20.

[0037] It is thus possible to secure nut portion 20 and washer portion 21 by means of joint portion 23 such that wave washer 22 is interposed therebetween. Further, at this stage, a plurality of detent protuberances 20c formed on nut portion 20 each mate with protuberance-mating portions 21c of washer portion 21, meaning that nut portion 20 and washer portion 21 rotate without slipping with respect to one another.

[0038] In Fig. 4, a motor vehicle antenna is shown mounted on a vehicle panel 110 by means of the first antenna-mounting nut 6 according to the present invention that has a constitution of the kind described above.

[0039] As shown in Fig. 4, the cylindrical protrusion 103a formed on base 103 on antenna body 100 is in-

serted into the rectangular antenna-mounting hole formed in vehicle panel 110, and antenna-mounting nut 6 according to the present invention is made to mate threadedly with cylindrical protrusion 103a that protrudes from this antenna-mounting hole, and antenna-mounting nut 6 is tightened. Antenna body 100 is thus secured such that vehicle panel 110 is interposed therebetween, as shown in Fig. 4.

[0040] A base pad 104, which is constituted from a resin that is elastic, is mated with base 103, and an O-ring 105 is inserted so as to mate with cylindrical protrusion 103a. Cylindrical protrusion 103a is then inserted into the antenna-mounting hole. This base pad 104 is glued to vehicle panel 110, and, by the action of ring 105, rainwater and so forth is prevented from penetrating vehicle panel 110 from the outside.

[0041] Further, antenna-mounting nut 6 is provided with a washer portion of U-shaped cross-section 21 formed with serrate protuberances 21a on the upper end edge thereof, and this washer portion 21 is constructed so as to rotate with nut portion 20. As a result, when antenna-mounting nut 6 is fastened onto cylindrical protrusion 103a, both nut portion 20 and washer portion 21 rotate, causing stripping of the paint on the rear surface of vehicle panel 110 by serrate protuberances 21a of [the washer portion]. Further, since serrate protuberances 21a engage inside the part of the vehicle panel from which paint has been stripped, the base 103 becomes reliably grounded to vehicle panel 110 via antenna-mounting nut 6.

[0042] When securing antenna body 100 to vehicle panel 110 by means of a first antenna-mounting nut 6 of this kind according to the present invention, when vehicle panel 110 is deformed, even if the gap between antenna-mounting nut 6 and vehicle panel 110 changes fractionally, this change can be absorbed by wave washer 22 that is interposed between nut portion 20 and washer portion 21, and thus a reduction in the press-contacting force of antenna-mounting nut 6 can be prevented as far as possible. It is thereby possible to stabilize the electrical connection between washer portion 21 and vehicle panel 110, and to prevent the grounding from becoming unreliable and the resulting grating sound.

[0043] Furthermore, even if the elasticity of base pad 104 and O-ring 105 weakens over the years, this change is similarly absorbed by wave washer 22, which is interposed between nut portion 20 and washer portion 21. As a result, it is possible to stabilize the electrical connection between washer portion 21 and vehicle panel 110, and to prevent the grounding from becoming unreliable and the resulting grating sound.

[0044] In addition, the inclined faces of the serrate protuberances 21a described above are formed facing in the direction in which antenna-mounting nut 6 is fastened, and when antenna-mounting nut 6 is being fastened, serrate protuberances 21a slide over the surface of vehicle panel 110; conversely, when antenna-mount-

ing nut 6 is being loosened, since serrate protuberances 21a engage inside the surface of the vehicle panel, antenna-mounting nut 6 can be prevented from becoming loose by serrate protuberances 21a.

[0045] Next, an example of the constitution of a second embodiment of the antenna-mounting nut of the present invention is shown in Fig. 5. Fig. 5(a) is a front view showing a cross-section through the middle of a second antenna-mounting nut of the present invention; Fig. 5(b) is a top view thereof, and Fig. 5(c) is a figure showing a partial enlargement thereof.

[0046] As shown in these figures, a second antenna-mounting nut 36 of the present invention is constituted from a nut portion 40 that engages threadedly with a cylindrical protrusion 103a that protrudes from base 103; and a washer portion 41 of U-shaped cross-section, on whose upper end edge a plurality of serrate protuberances 41a and a plurality of radial slits 41b are formed. A threaded portion 40b is formed, inside a first through-hole 40a in nut portion 40, that engages threadedly with a cylindrical protrusion 103a that protrudes from base 103, and a plurality of caulking pieces 40c are formed on the upper face of nut portion 40 so as to surround threaded portion 40b.

[0047] Furthermore, washer portion 41 is formed so as to be of U-shaped cross-section, the upper end edge thereof having a plurality of serrate protuberances 41a formed thereon that engage inside vehicle panel 110, when the washer portion is mounted, a second polygonal through-hole being formed in the center thereof. The inclined faces of serrate protuberances 41a are formed facing in the direction in which antenna-mounting nut 36 is fastened, and when antenna-mounting nut 36 is being fastened, serrate protuberances 41a slide over the surface of the vehicle panel; conversely, when antenna-mounting nut 36 is being loosened, since serrate protuberances 41a engage inside the surface of vehicle panel 110, antenna-mounting nut 36 can be prevented from becoming loose by serrate protuberances 41a. A plurality of radial slits 41b are also formed in washer portion 41. These slits 41b are formed so as to extend from the planar portion 41c, in which the polygonal second through-hole is formed, to an upright portion 41d on whose upper end edge serrate protuberances 41a are formed. Further, washer portion 41 is formed from an elastic material such as steel, for example. Washer portion 41 is thus constructed such that upright portion 41d is elastically connected to planar portion 41c.

[0048] A constitution, in which nut portion 40 and washer portion 41 are secured so as to be integral, will now be described. Six caulking pieces 40c are, for example, formed on the upper face of nut portion 40. Hence, when washer portion 41 is placed on the upper surface of nut portion 40, these six caulking pieces 40c are inserted matingly into the second through-hole that has been formed, for example, as a hexagon, in washer portion 41. When caulking the six caulking pieces 40c by means of a caulking tool, nut portion 40 is secured

integrally to washer portion 41. Here, since six caulking pieces 40c are provided and inserted into the hexagonal second through-hole, washer portion 41 is able to rotate with nut portion 40. As a result, when nut portion 40 is fastened onto cylindrical protrusion 103a, serrate protuberances 41a of washer portion 41 also rotate, causing stripping of the paint of vehicle panel 110. Further, since serrate protuberances 41a engage inside the part of the vehicle panel from which paint has been stripped, base 103 becomes reliably grounded to vehicle panel 110 via antenna-mounting nut 36.

[0049] When securing antenna body 100 to vehicle panel 110 by means of a second antenna-mounting nut 36 of this kind according to the present invention, when vehicle panel 110 is deformed, even if the gap between antenna-mounting nut 36 and vehicle panel 110 changes fractionally, this change can be absorbed by washer portion 41 that is elastic and has slits 41b formed therein, and thus a reduction in the press-contacting force of the antenna-mounting nut 36 can be prevented as far as possible. It is thereby possible to stabilize the electrical connection between washer portion 41 and vehicle panel 110, and to prevent the grounding from becoming unreliable and the resulting grating sound.

[0050] Furthermore, even if the elasticity of base pad 104 and O-ring 105 weakens over the years, this change is similarly absorbed by washer portion 41. As a result, it is possible to stabilize the electrical connection between washer portion 41 and vehicle panel 110 and to prevent the grounding from becoming unreliable and the resulting grating sound.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0051] On account of the constitution described above, with the first antenna-mounting nut, a wave washer is interposed between the washer portion and nut portion, meaning that even if the vehicle panel is deformed or the elasticity of the base pad or O-ring weakens, this change can be absorbed by the wave washer, and thus a reduction in the press-contacting force of the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented by the present invention as far as possible. Further, the inclined faces of the serrate protuberances that are formed on the upper end of the washer portion are formed facing in the direction in which the nut portion is fastened onto the protrusion of the base; thus, during fastening, the antenna-mounting nut rotates smoothly, and, during loosening, since the serrate protuberances engage inside the vehicle panel, the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented from becoming loose.

[0052] Further, with the second antenna-mounting nut, since the washer portion is made elastic by being formed from an elastic material and by a plurality of slits being formed radially therein, even if the vehicle panel is deformed or the elasticity of the base pad or O-ring weakens, this change can be absorbed by the elastic washer portion, and thus a reduction in the press-con-

tacting force of the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented as far as possible. Further, because the inclined faces of the serrate protuberances formed at the upper end of the washer portion are formed facing in the direction in which the nut portion is fastened onto the base protrusion, during fastening the antenna-mounting nut rotates smoothly, and, during loosening, since the serrate protuberances engage inside the vehicle panel, the antenna-mounting nut can be prevented from becoming loose.

Claims

1. An antenna-mounting nut, that engages threadedly, from a reverse side of a vehicle panel, with a protrusion, on an antenna body, which is inserted into a mounting hole formed in said vehicle panel, **characterized by** comprising:

a washer portion, at whose upper end a plurality of serrate protuberances is formed that come into contact with said vehicle panel;

a nut portion that engages threadedly with said protrusion; and

a joint portion that integrally secures, via a wave washer, said washer portion and said nut portion, so that same do not rotate with respect to one another,

inclined faces of said serrate protuberances being formed facing in a direction in which said nut portion is fastened onto said protrusion.

2. An antenna-mounting nut, that engages threadedly, from a reverse side of a vehicle panel, with a protrusion, on an antenna body, which is inserted into a mounting hole formed in said vehicle panel, **characterized by** comprising:

a washer portion, at whose upper end a plurality of serrate protuberances is formed that come into contact with said vehicle panel and whose inclined faces are formed facing in a direction in which said nut portion is fastened onto said protrusion; and

a nut portion that is secured to this washer portion so as to be prevented from turning, and that engages threadedly with said protrusion, said washer portion being made elastic by being formed from an elastic material and by a plurality of slits being formed radially therein.

Fig. 1

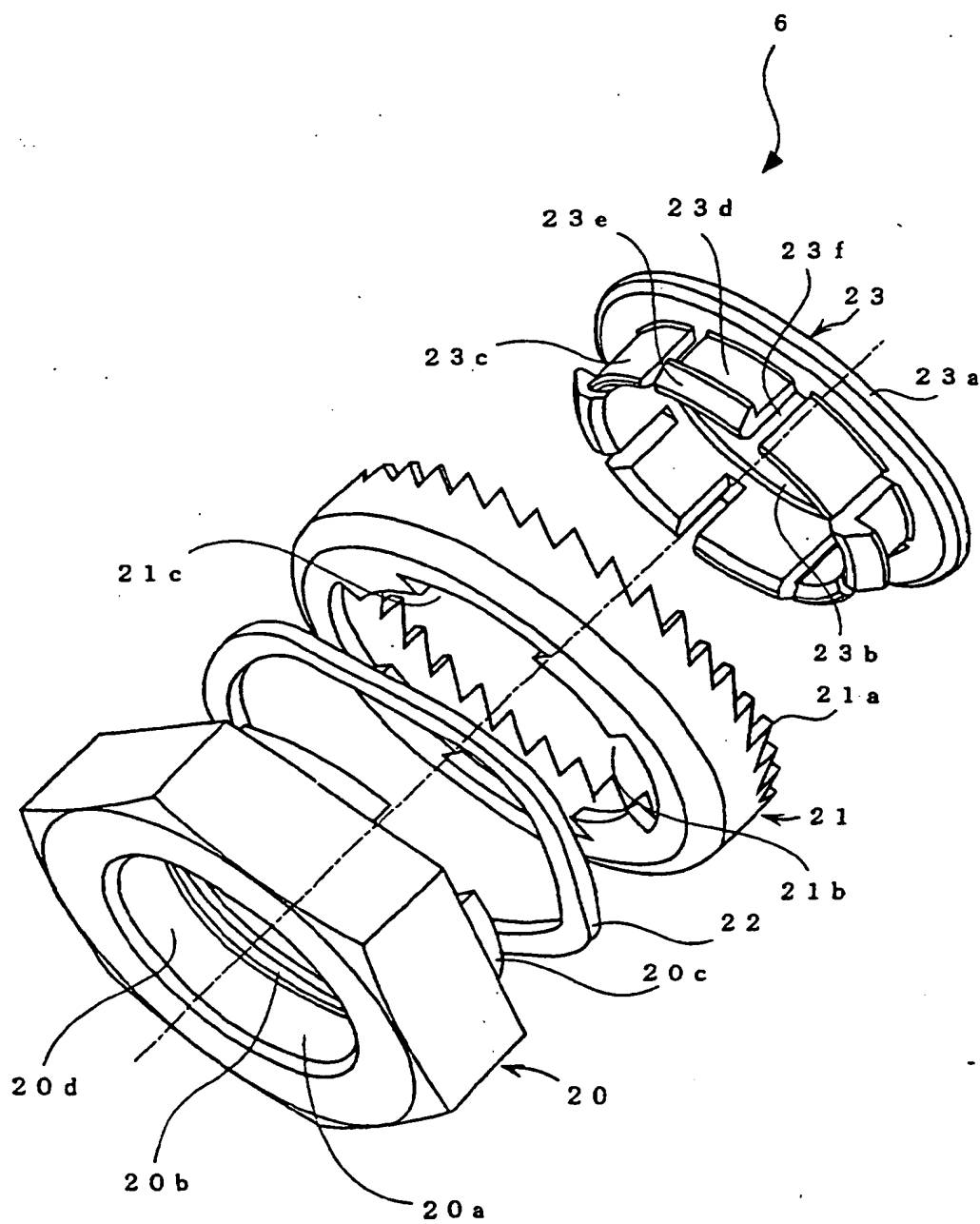


Fig. 2

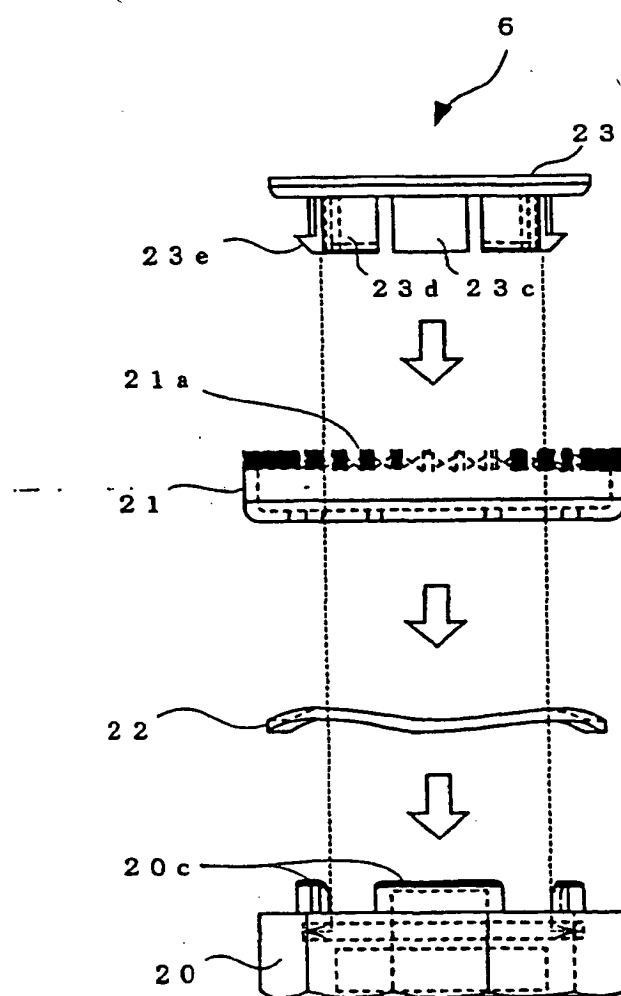


Fig. 3a

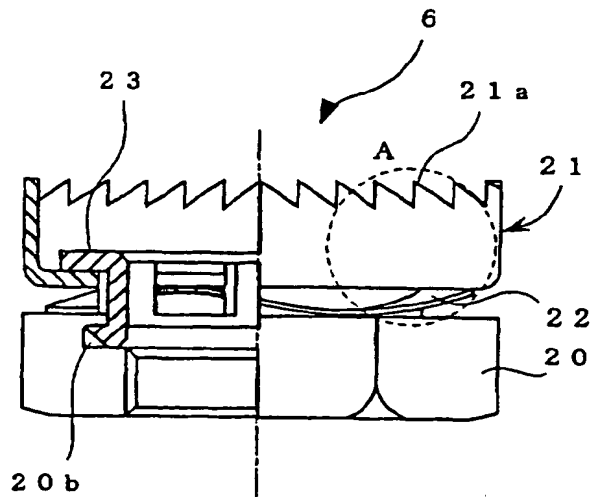


Fig. 3b

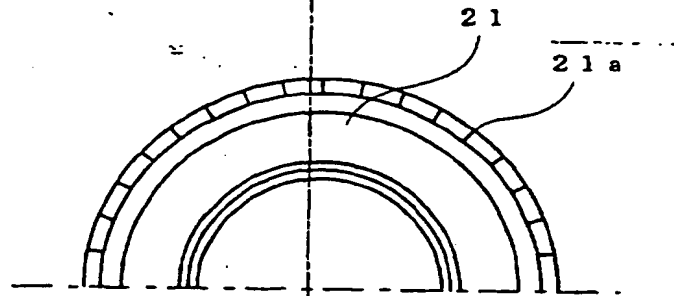


Fig. 3c

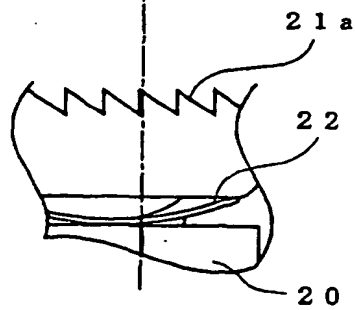


Fig. 4

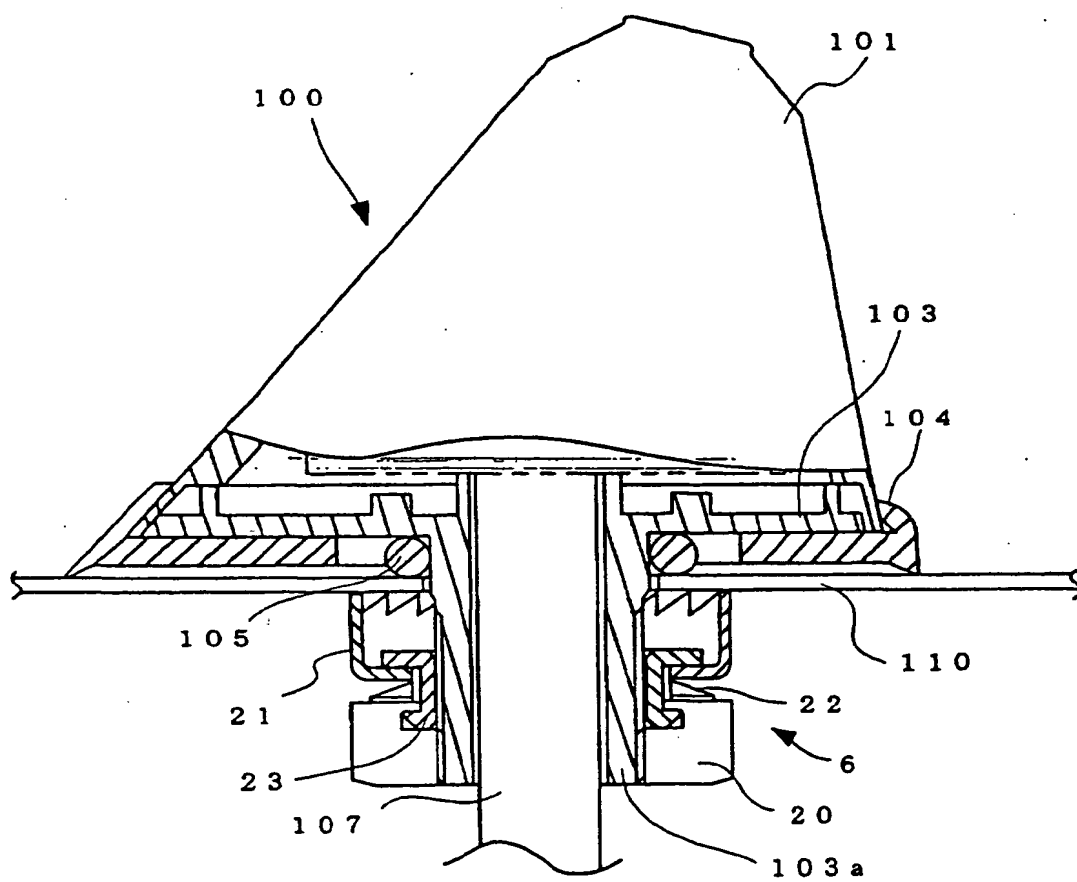


Fig. 5a

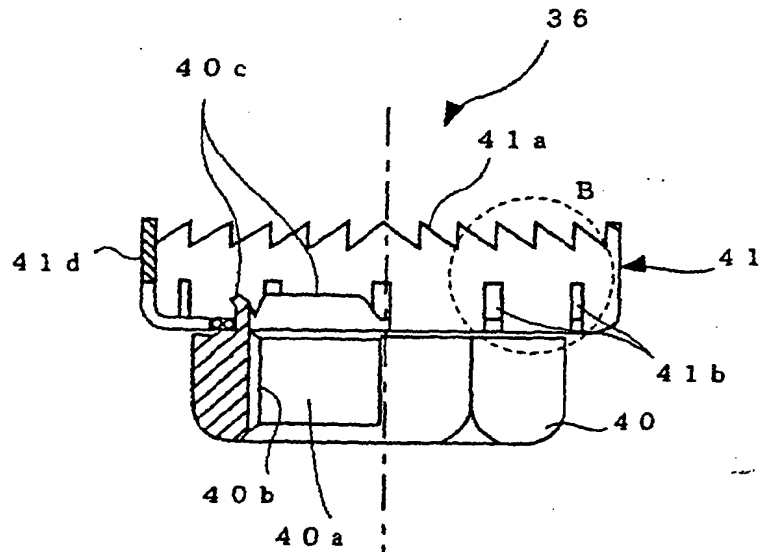


Fig. 5b

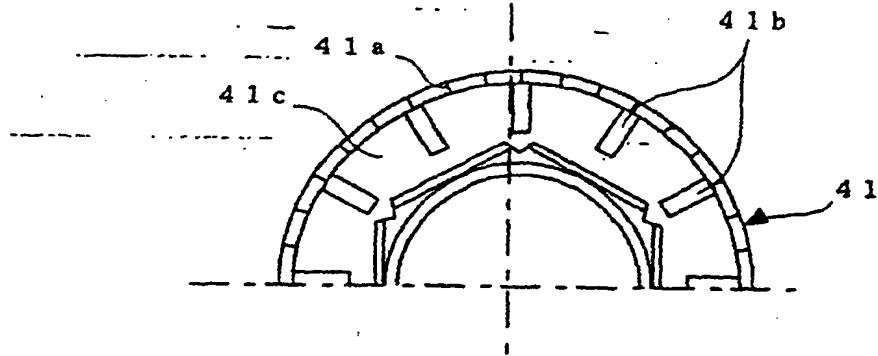


Fig. 5c

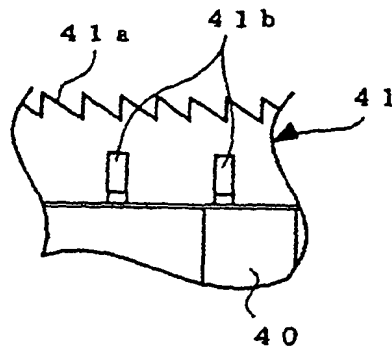


Fig. 6

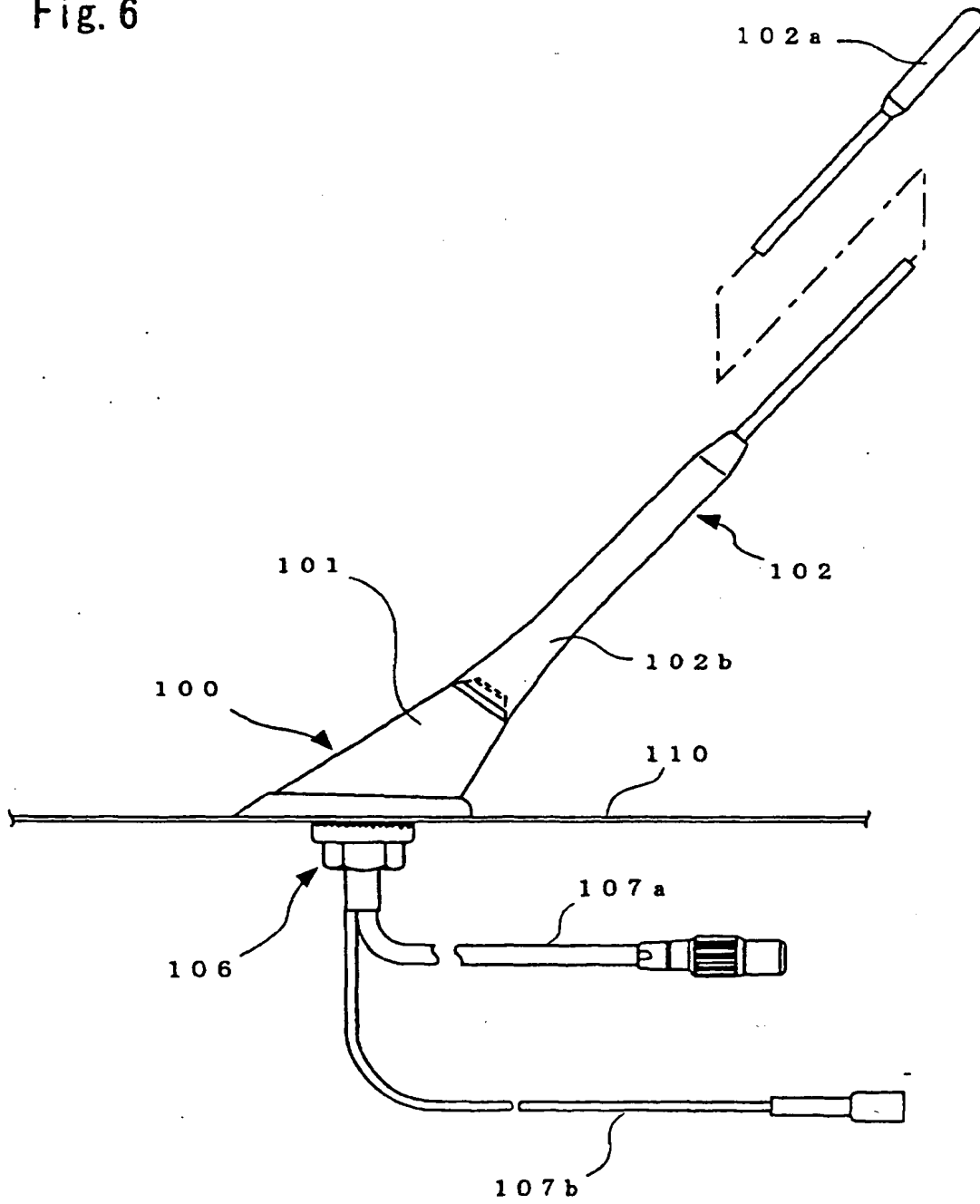


Fig. 7

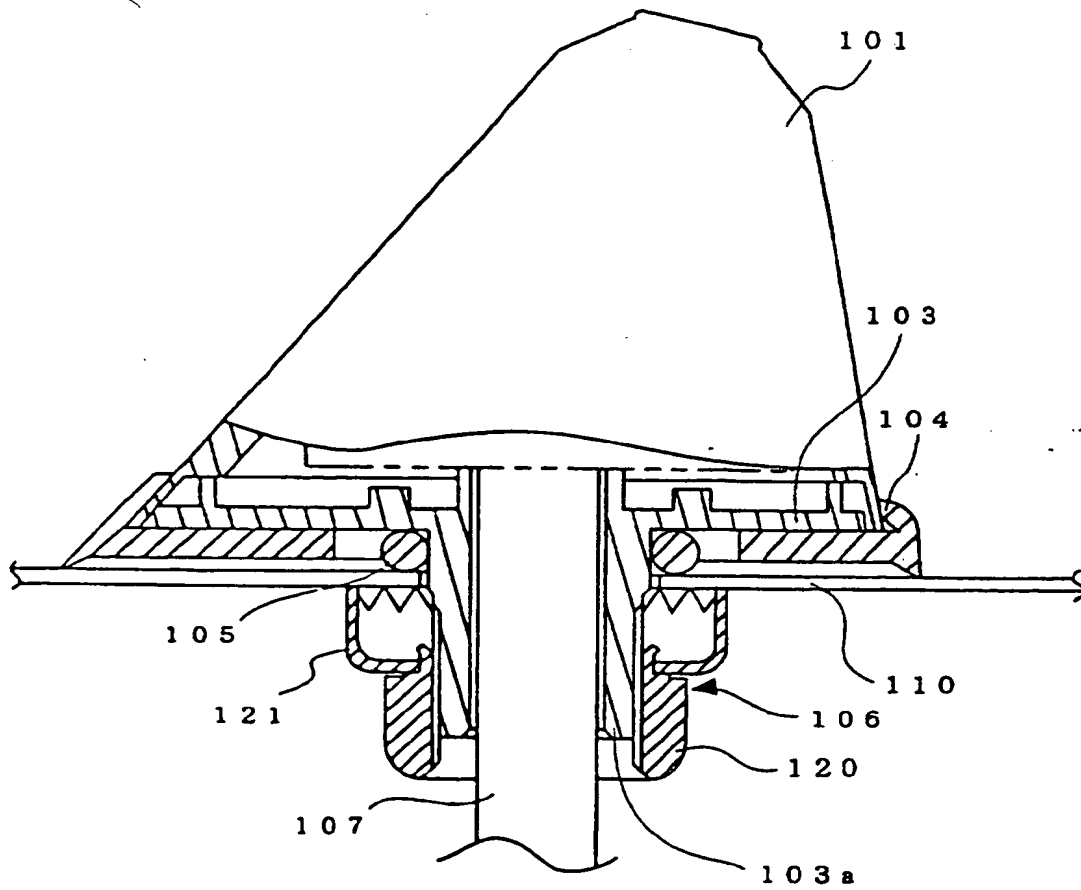


Fig. 8a

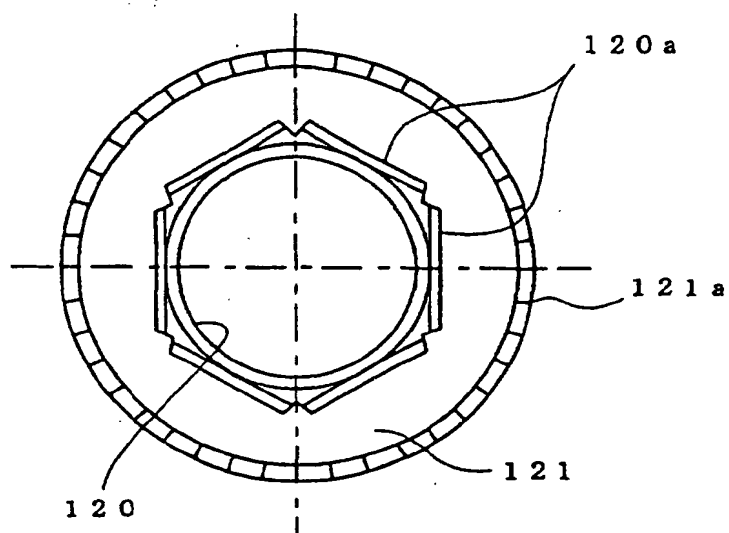
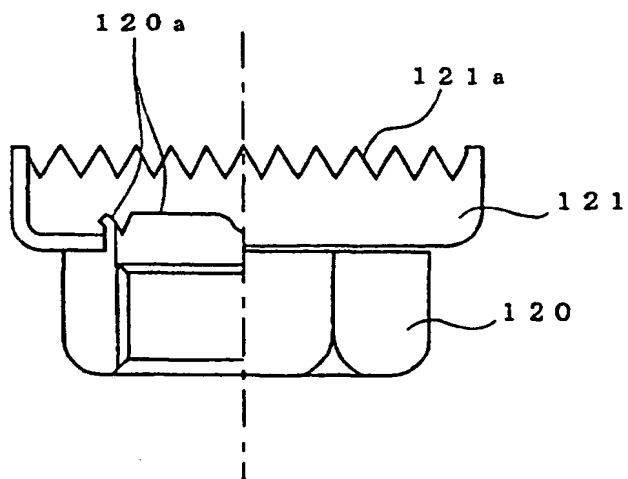


Fig. 8b



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP00/08527

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl. ⁷ H01Q1/22, F16B39/24		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl. ⁷ H01Q1/22, F16B39/24		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2001 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2001 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2001		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PATOLIS JOIS		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	JP, 08-237014, A (Nippon Antenna Co., Ltd.), 13 September, 1996 (13.09.96), Claims; Par. Nos. [0012] to [0022]; Figs. 1 to 10 & WO, 96/027217, A & EP, 758802, A	1, 2
Y	JP, 45-004888, Y (Risuke SHIKICHI), 07 March, 1970 (07.03.70), page 1, left column, line 27 to page 1, right column, line 23; Figs. 1 to 3 (Family: none)	1, 2
Y	JP, 48-051958, U (Tokushu Bane Kogyo K.K.), 06 July, 1973 (06.07.73), claims of utility model; Figs. 3 to 4 (Family: none)	1
Y	JP, 51-015171, B (Katsuhiko WAKABAYASHI), 14 May, 1976 (14.05.76), page 2, right column, line 20 to page 2, right column, line 24; Fig. 6 (Family: none)	1
Y	JP, 60-107613, U (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation), 22 July, 1985 (22.07.85), page 2, right column, line 20 to page 2, right column,	2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents. "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 21 February, 2001 (21.02.01)		Date of mailing of the international search report 06 March, 2001 (06.03.01)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP00/08527

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	line 24; Fig. 6 (Family: none)	
A	JP, 10-034207, A (Nippon Antenna Co., Ltd.), 31 March, 1998 (31.03.98), Figs. 2, 5 (Family: none)	1,2
A	JP, 11-274825, A (Mazda Motor Corporation), 08 October, 1999 (08.10.99), Par. Nos. [0019, to 0020]; Fig. 4 (Family: none)	1,2

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